

Simple tricks and purchases to keep your home mosquito free

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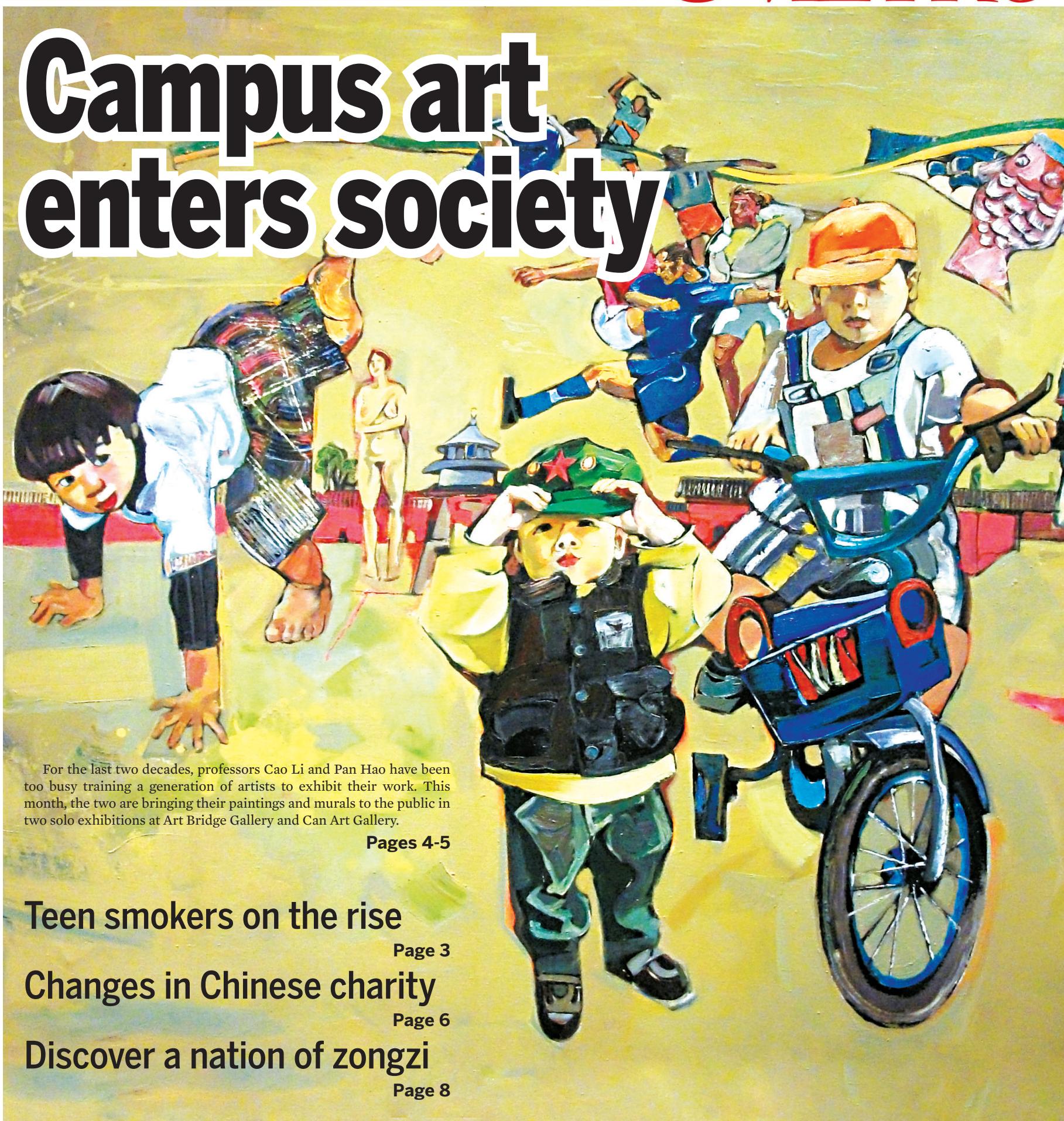
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Campus art enters society



For the last two decades, professors Cao Li and Pan Hao have been too busy training a generation of artists to exhibit their work. This month, the two are bringing their paintings and murals to the public in two solo exhibitions at Art Bridge Gallery and Can Art Gallery.

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Great Sphinx of Shijiazhuang draws UN complaint

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

Egyptian cultural officials have filed a complaint with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) over the "Great Sphinx of Shijiazhuang."

The counterfeit Sphinx, standing 80 meters long and 30 meters high, is a 1:1 replica of the Great Sphinx of Giza made using cement and steel.

Counterfeiting national monuments violates an international convention signed in 1972, according to Egypt's complaint, which also threatened to sue China for copyright infringement if the Sphinx is not destroyed.

The Sphinx is reportedly part of Shijiazhuang's Cultural Creation Park, where it is being used as temporary set for a film shoot. "We'll dismantle the copy once we've finished filming," park officials said. "We have never charged any fees to visitors who want to see it."

The Sphinx is one of China's many great counterfeits. Prominent buildings from around the world have been copied in the country.

Chengdu Senior Textile Education College, a textile education college in Chengdu, Sichuan Province has its own copies of the pyramids, the El Castillo



Shijiazhuang's famous fake Sphinx

CFP Photo

temple of Chichen Itza, the White House and the Balcony of Uruguay. The campus looks like an exhibition of the world's most famous buildings.

Sources say the college used to be a "World Park" that was converted into a school in 1994 when its business failed.

Other college buildings copy Venetian bridges, European streets, Scandinavian churches, Japanese homes, Thai temples, the Canterbury Cathedral, the Statue of Liberty, Niagara Falls and the moai stat-

ues of Easter Island.

Most of the copied buildings are used by the college as dorms, classrooms, cafeterias and bookstores.

"These building were not built by our college: they existed there before we moved in," said Li Jian, president of the college.

"These copy buildings are ugly and damage our national image," said Wang Jun, a professor of social sciences of Peking University. "I hope they dismantle them as soon as possible."

Tourists robbed, beaten in Paris

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

A group of 48 Chinese tourists were robbed and five were beaten in an attack in Paris on May 23.

The attack happened at 11:40 pm when the tourists were departing a bus to check into their hotel. The bus driver stopped 100 meters from the hotel doors and asked the tourists to disembark and carry their

own luggage inside.

Once off the bus, the group was attacked by two black men wielding canisters of pepper spray.

Two members of the group were hospitalized on account of their injuries.

Tourists reported losing €2,200 (18,700 yuan), several digital video recorders, camera, passports, ATM cards and jewelry.

The tour group was on a trip through

Cologne, Paris, Luxemburg, Belgium and Amsterdam.

"Saint-Denis Basilique is a terrible place," said Xiao Zhu, a Chinese student who spent three years studying in Paris. Many travel agencies choose the area for its comparatively cheap hotels.

China and France are discussing the possibility to sending Chinese police officers to Paris to cooperate with local police in the protection of Chinese tourists.

Haikou offers hukou to boost property sales



New buildings crowd Haikou.

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

Starting from June 1, Haikou, the capital of Hainan Province, is offering a free *hukou* to anyone willing to purchase a 120-square-meter property in its urban area.

The offer, which began Sunday, is limited to five buyers.

In a document titled Suggestions for Promoting Property and Real Estate, the city government promised to speed buyers through all the procedures necessary to settle down.

Ni Qiang, mayor of Haikou, said the city's property market has been healthy, but is suffering from a national downturn.

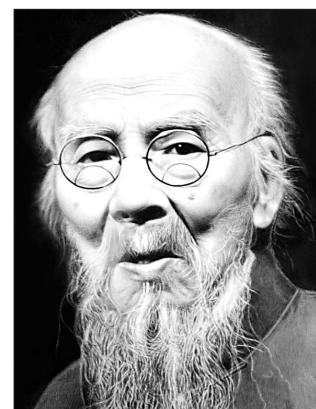
Beijing apartments within Fifth Ring Road cost as much as 4 million yuan, and in Shanghai real estate prices have also peaked. Many second- and third-tier cities are seeing a slow decline in home values as well.

Since March, banks have been hesitant to issue loans, often requiring increasingly strict terms as business tightens.

To boost the real estate market, many cities are dismantling their limits on how many apartments a family can own.

Observers say the depressed market is a temporary setback and that the long-term outlook on Chinese real estate remains positive, meaning a steady rise in value.

Master painter's estate locked in legal battle by heirs



Qi Baishi



Xu Linglu

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

Xu Linglu, a master painter and the apprentice of Qi Baishi, died three years ago leaving behind 2.1 billion yuan and his collection of famous paintings.

Now his children are battling for their share.

Xu's collection of 24 paintings includes works by such masters as Qi Baishi, Li Keran, Pan Tianshou and Guo Moruo.

In July 2012, Wang Lingwen, Xu's 95-year-old widow, received a letter from a lawyer hired to represent five of Xu's children. The children have jointly accused their mother, requesting permission

to divide Xu's estate.

Wang has produced a letter written by Xu when he was still alive that empowers her to handle the distribution of all his property. The letter was written on September 2, 2010 when Xu was 92 years old.

But the children have challenged the letter. Xu Li, one of Xu's daughters, said the letter was unclear and written in a style unlike how her father used to speak.

The case is currently being mediated in the Second Middle Court of Beijing. The parties have yet to reach an agreement although the preliminary hearing is over.

Teen smoking on the rise

By YANG XIN
Beijing Today Intern

Last Saturday was World No Tobacco Day. While many countries were celebrating the success of their tobacco fighting efforts, China was forced to confront an uncomfortable fact: between its lax prohibition on the sale of cigarettes to minors and increased tobacco promotion, teen smoking is on the rise.

According to the 2014 China Youth Tobacco Survey by the Chinese Center for Disease Control, more than 11.5 percent of Chinese teens are smokers with 6.4 percent having started before the age of 15.

While it's common knowledge that smokers suffer from serious respiratory and cardiovascular disease, those who start young may face lifelong damage including stunted growth.

Wang Yu, director of the Chinese CDC, said as many as half of China's smokers begin in their teens.

The nation's inability to curb teen smoking has been a frustrating fact for advocates of tobacco control.

Xu Guihua, deputy chairman of the Chinese Association for Tobacco Control, said much of the problem involves tobacco advertisements, promotions and sponsor-

ships that target teens.

Tobacco advertisements are everywhere in China. Some Hope Schools even bear the names of famous tobacco brands.

A survey by the CDC found that 17.5 percent of teens were exposed to advertisements in retail outlets, 20 percent around town and 15.6 percent on the Internet.

The Chinese Association for Tobacco Control said the country has seen a significant increase in the amount of sponsorships taken on by big tobacco. When compared to the first four months of 2009, tobacco sponsorships are up more than 88 percent.

Many of the tobacco companies are promoting their sponsorships as charity and even go so far as to raise donations.

Cinemas are another major tobacco promoter. In the survey by the CDC, nearly 70 percent of teens said they were

influenced by images of smokers on TV or in the movies.

Xiao Lin, a deputy researcher at the CDC, said this is bad news for long-term control efforts.

"Seeing more smokers on the big screen may triple the possibility of teens giving it a try. Teens are 16 times more likely to smoke if they see their favorite actor doing it on the screen," Xiao said.

Chinese law does not prohibit such advertisements or promotions.

In a recent letter to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Chinese Association for Tobacco Control urged the government to prohibit tobacco companies from engaging in any donation drives under the pretext of social responsibility. It also urged the Industrial and Commercial Administrative Departments to strengthen their oversight of tobacco advertisements.

Retailers and vendors are also to blame. Statistics from the CDC show that more than 64 percent of teens can buy cigarettes near school and more than 80 percent are never carded by cigarette vendors.

To attract teen consumers, many cigarette vendors sell in bulk. "It's quite common to see students buying cigarettes for all their classmates," said a student at a vocational school in Kunming, Yunnan Province.

Teachers and parents are not being effective role models in the war on smoking. The CDC's survey found that 13.3 percent of middle school students reported seeing their teachers smoking on school grounds.

Moreover, while most teens know that smoking is bad, only 35 percent learn about the specific harm of smoking in school. More than 68 percent were unaware that smoking can become a fatal habit, and 13 percent said they believed cigarettes helped to make them more attractive.

Some 72 percent of teens have attempted to quit smoking, and 11.4 percent have sought professional assistance to quit.

Mao Qunan, a spokesman for the National Health and Family Planning Commission, is calling for the Chinese legal system to play a bigger role. "We need to update our laws and regulations to protect teens from tobacco use," Mao said.

School education is another weak point in Chinese society.

Singapore has been trying to set a good example. The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education in the city-state have been cooperating since June to provide anti-smoking education courses to teens. The trial run will last two years and be promoted in all middle schools by 2017.

A survey in Japan found that teens who quit smoking together with their smoker parents have a 100 percent success rate. That success falls to 5.8 percent when the parents are unable to quit.

"Having a companion in the family can be crucial for teens who are trying to quit," said Takahashi Yuko, a professor at Nara Women's University.



CFP Photo

Artist brings transitional im



Seeking Happiness

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

As the first Chinese a dimensional style of Paul Cezanne, Pan Hao uses planes of color and thick strokes to build exceedingly strong forms.

Pan began his art education at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing.



Beauties in the City



Metropolitan

Mural teacher comes to ter

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

In all his works, painter Cao Li captures a calm, consistent and quiet world built on his observations of what people and society desire. His eyes are clear, like the eyes of a child. His search of artistic meaning is both naive and pure.

Cao is the director of mural painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, where he has taught since graduating in 1982.

Born in Guizhou Province, horses are a common image that tie together his catalog.

Since the 1980s, Cao's works have helped distinguish him as one of China's leading mural painters. His works "Horse in the Shadow" (1984) and "Horse in the Crowds of Paper" (1984) show a life too buried in work to see its future.

Cao learned to relax in the later half of 1980s. His representative works in this period include "Four Sisters" (1989), showing the ups and downs in the lives of four women.

He went to Europe to develop his own style in the early 1990s, bringing together the elements of time and characterization to convey his feelings. Cao's works in this time begin to show an open mind and describe real individuals in society.

But during this time, many of Cao's pieces such as "Full Winged Dancer" (1996) and "Crowded Passing Away" (1995) began to contain symbolic contradictions.

Cao later turned his attention back to Guizhou to calm his heart. He began tying together crowded cities with cars, telephones, horses and folk instruments.

Since 2000, most of Cao's art has focused on countryside villages. The horses in his works have become strong and imbued with a kind of populist humor. Cao is more interested in the bigger topics of society about humanism or nature and human life. Works from this period include the "Legend of 21th Century" (2001) and "Fables of the New Century" (2003).

Q&A with Cao Li

Q: Your works in the early 1980s seemed angry and unsatisfied with society. Are you still angry now?

A: That was just part of the process of growing up. You feel unsatisfied with so many things around you and cannot see the future.

Q: Then what do you feel now?

A: When you grow up, you learn more about society and learn to be patient. That's what it takes to be mature. Today, I'm more satisfied with my job, my work and my future.

Q: What is your goal as an artist?

A: We painters should focus more on humanity rather than society. A society is good as long as it cares about its people.

Q: What suggestions do you have for young people today?

A: My suggestions are to keep calm and try to understand society rather than condemn it. Focus on what you should do. Gradually, young people will grow up and become more understanding. There's no point in focusing on politics because all politics is always changing.



Can Art Gal

Where: 11, Chaoyang

When: Third

Tel: 8610 59

Email: can_galler

Impressionism to China

He spent the next decade continuing his studies at Tama Art University in Japan.

Artist to capture the Cézanne (1839-1909), color and small brushstrokes complex images. Education at the Guangzhou, graduating in 1987.

After a year of studying oil painting in Europe, Pan returned to China. In 2003, he enrolled as a Ph.D candidate in the Central Academy of Fine Arts and stayed on at the academy to teach after graduating.

Drawing on his years abroad, Pan has created a number of oil paintings describing daily

life in the urban cities of Japan and Europe. Most of his paintings are held by local museums and foundations.

Early in his career, Pan painted spring, summer and autumn scenery that was free of people. But as the years went on, he began adding crowds, sharp lines and sketches of bus or subway stations.

Soon after, Pan turned his attention to individ-

ual shoppers or workers: their families, their joy and their happiness. His most successful works include "Mother and Her Children," "Naughty Boys" and "Seeking Happiness."

"Pan Hao has clear control over the three-dimensional character of his work," said Jia Fangzhou, curator of Pan's solo exhibition. "He is a painter who pays careful attention to the shape and appearance of the characters in his works."

Q&A with Pan Hao

Q: What helps you give your characters such rich texture?

A: I used to paint the seasons, but gradually I felt that approach would lead me to a dead end in oil painting. In Japan, we had strict classes and learned the style of impressionist artist Paul Cézanne.

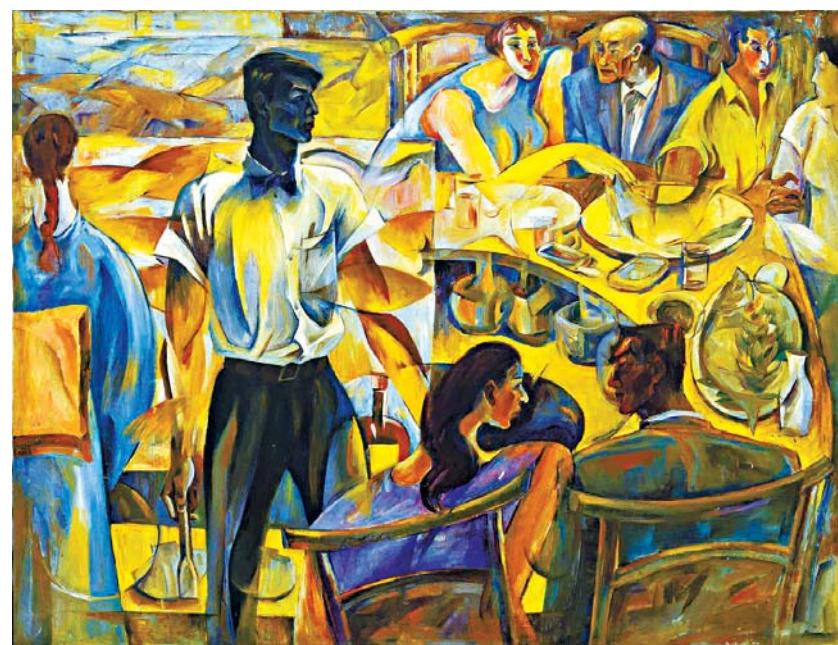
So that's the approach I still follow today, and it's the style I will teach my students since it is so good for creating detailed characters.

Q: Do you reject other painting styles?

A: I wouldn't say that. I've learned many different styles and am always prepared to try more.

Q: How can you spare time to paint while teaching?

A: You can always make time for anything you truly enjoy: time management is an essential life skill. That's something I always try to tell my students.



Bar



Art Bridge Gallery

Where: D09-1, 78 Art District, Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing

When: Through June 20

Tel: 6433 1798 or 13701085886

ms with society



Life



Earthquake in Wenchuan



Legend of the 21st Century

Gallery
East Street, 798
District
ough June 20
78 or 18612656120
@yahoo.com.cn

The changing landscape of Chinese charity



Children at an elementary school for migrants receive donations from a local charity.

Photos by CFP & Baidu

By DIAO DIAO
Beijing Today Intern

The nature of charity in China is changing.

In the last decade, both international organizations and domestic groups have shifted from relying on donation drives to providing more complex cultural services to meet the specific needs of disadvantaged groups. But finding the right way to go about charitable projects remains a tough question for many.

At a recent performance by Musethica, the group's founder Avri Levitan spoke to the children of migrant workers at Chaoyang Banbidian Elementary about how theory and technique are not the way to go about mastering music. The education project encourages music learners to participate in charitable performances to build experience in interpretation by giving music to people who have few chances to experience it.

Musethica has been providing free concerts to orphanages, children's education centers and nursing houses around the world. Its Beijing trip was supported by the China National Children's Center, Youth League Committee of Chaoyang, Isreal Embassy and other organizations.

Most of the students were curious about the instruments and the performers. After performing five pieces, Levitan invited the children to play with his violin. Yang Dongming, a 9-year-old stu-



dent, said the performance was very different from most of the school's events. Having studied keyboard, Yang said Levitan's ideas were very different from his teachers'. "I always focused on theory and did whatever the teachers told me to do. I should have spent more time thinking about the meaning of what I was playing," he said.

Charitable projects are increasingly common in China, although most focus on donating material goods to impoverished communities. Last month, students from Beijing's Shijia Elementary saved money to send paper and notebooks to students at the city's Xiao Tian'e Ele-

mentary School.

But art and culture performances are becoming a popular alternative as a way to open the minds of disadvantaged children and inspire them to strive for their own success. Most are organized or supported by the local government or educators.

Efficient and successful charity work depends on providing what the recipients need: not what the donor thinks or feels is necessary. Musethica provides art education to students too poor to afford tuition while the students at Shijia Elementary provided material goods their peers struggled to purchase. "Poor chil-

dren or children with mental diseases need support, not pity," said Professor Xu Guangxing, a child psychologist. "Seeing faces of pity at a charity event will only reinforce their powerlessness whereas smiles and equal treatment can make them grow more confident."

Training courses are also important. Yang Lan, a famous senior media practitioner, said charitable events require professional management knowledge and experience. "Sun Culture Foundation, Peking University and Harvard University have been cooperating to develop charitable training courses to give the students better access to knowledge and skills," she said.

Whether the group behind a charity work is from home or abroad, charity organizers must be committed to helping solve real problems rather than flaunting their "kindness."

Local lawyer Zhang Qihuai studied the early years of Chinese charity – specifically a case where charitable works became commercialized in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. Zhang said charities that act in their own interests can easily find themselves in legal trouble.

Lack of legal knowledge and social responsibility is the main cause of charities going bad.

Xu Guangxing also said handing money to poor children only reinforces their powerlessness. Charity must come from respect, he said, and it must come regularly.

Fight back against mosquitoes



By DIAO DIAO
Beijing Today Intern

It's only the first week of June, but the capital has already seen several days of temperatures above 40°C. That means summer is here – and so are the mosquitoes!

For many people, mosquitoes bring sleepless nights of painful itching and endless swatting. If you're trying to find a solution to the city's most hated summertime pest, consider these relatively safe alternatives to chemical sprays.



Mint cream



Laundry detergent



Soaps



Mosquito lamp

Vitamin B

Mosquitoes hate the scent of vitamin B, making the natural element a secret weapon to keep your nights bite-free. Try taking two tablets before going to bed or dissolving them in water to make a vitamin B body spray. Humans have a hard time recognizing the scent of vitamin B, but for mosquitoes such a simple solution can be overpowering. A bottle of vitamin B has 100 tablets and costs less than 5 yuan.

Mosquito lamps

You may have heard zaps and pops the last time you ate in a chain restaurant. These are the sounds of a hardworking mosquito lamp. The lamps are designed to attract mosquitoes and kill them.

The lamp unit produces light, heat, water vapor, air flow and carbon dioxide, mimicking how mosquitoes see a human body. These work to attract mosquitoes without using any chemical scents, and they are swiftly killed by dehydration or electricity, depending on the model.

These tools work best when placed high above the ground and operated in the dark. Most cost 50 yuan. The bulb inside provides 5,000 hours of protection before it needs replacing.

Laundry detergent and soap

The scent of detergent is a major attraction for mosquitoes. But the addition of common soap creates an alkaline environment that is dangerous for mosquitoes. Mix the two in equal portions and place it in a small dish to attract and trap the bugs.

Orange color

Using orange curtains or furniture covers is another way to drive off mosquitoes. The insects fly to the brightest lights, but they tend to avoid colors like orange or yellow.



Garlic



Vitamin B



Mint oil

Other things such as mint creams, mosquito nets and vacuum cleaners can also be used to give you a quiet night. Fresh mint placed beside the bed can help keep away bugs, and mosquito nets have been in use for thousands of years.

Mosquitoes like to hide during the day in the corners of your rooms and behind furniture. Vacuuming might suck up and destroy any sleeping bugs.

You might also consider eating more garlic at dinner, as the strong odor has been proven to repel many less-than-supernatural bloodsuckers.

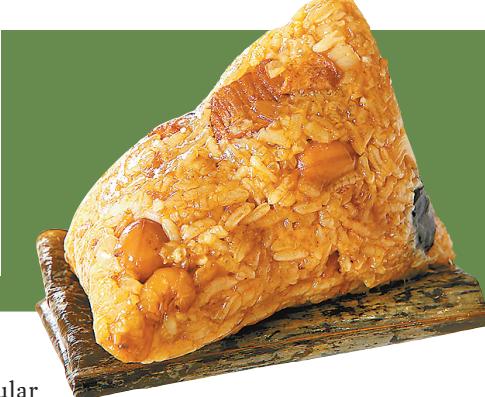
Photos by
CFP & Baidu

Editor: Zhao Hongyi

BEIJING TODAY

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Zongzi of the north and south



Shaanxi Zongzi

The traditional and most popular zongzi in Shaanxi Province are a cold treat made with honey. Shaanxi's zongzi are unique because they include no filling, nor are they wrapped in leaves. Each zongzi is made by pressing sticky rice into the shape of a water chestnut. The cooled treats are sliced and served with honey, rose or osmanthus syrup. Another way to make is to add the syrup to the sticky rice before pressing the zongzi into its final shape.

Web: item.yhd.com/item/28740172

Shanghai Zongzi

Shanghai zongzi are soft and have a strong taste. In addition to sticky rice, they are stuffed with pork, chestnut, mushrooms, egg, beans or roast duck. They are both sweet and salty.

Web: item.yhd.com/item/27884694

Minnan & Guangxi Zongzi

Minnan zongzi are made using a very fine grain sticky rice. They are often stuffed with soft pork, dried mushrooms, lotus and small shrimp mixed with gravy and sugar. Guangxi

is well known for its giant zongzi, the biggest of which are called "pillow zongzi." One pillow is made of 500 grams of sticky rice. Guilin has its own small zongzi that are shaped like a dog's head. Guangxi's zongzi have both sweet and salty fillings.

Web: item.yhd.com/item/17185099

Guangdong Zongzi

Guangdong's zongzi are the most common style in the south. Each dumpling is shaped into a delicate cube. Most are made with meat filling, and the sticky rice is combined with peeled beans and pork. Most Guangdong zongzi are salty.

Web: item.yhd.com/item/19940084

Hainan Zongzi

Hainan's zongzi are one of the larger varieties. The square dumplings each weigh 500 grams and are stuffed with salty eggs and barbecued meat. The zongzi are usually rolled in banana leaves, which gives them a unique fragrance and taste.

Web: item.yhd.com/item/28816160

By DIAO DIAO
Beijing Today Intern

Last weekend was the Duanwu Festival and pretty much every family in Beijing celebrated by eating zongzi. Unsurprisingly, the popular TV series *A Bite of China* dedicated its latest installment to the popular dumpling.

Zongzi are made by wrapping sticky rice around a filling and rolling up the mixture in reed leaves. In Beijing, most zongzi are made with jujube filling. Preparation and fillings vary wildly between regions.



Pillow



Learn to make Beijing zongzi

Ingredients:

- 1kg sticky rice
- 500g sweet jujubes
- 50 reed leaves
- cotton string

Instructions:

1. Soak the rice in cold water for 2 hours. Clean the leaves with boiled water.
2. Pick one or two leaves and roll them together to make a funnel shape.
3. Add a heaping spoonful of sticky rice and two to three jujubes.
4. Add another heaping spoonful of sticky rice and press it in with your hands.
5. Roll up the remaining length of leaf until the zongzi takes on a triangular shape. Tie it up with the cotton rope.
6. Continue shaping zongzi until you run out of leaves.
7. Place the zongzi in a pressure-cooker and add enough water to cover them.
8. Close the pressure valve and boil for one hour. Reduce the flame and boil for another 30 minutes.
9. Transfer the zongzi to a bowl of ice water to make them firm up and improve the taste.

Photos by CFP & Baidu

